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**REMARKS**

Applicants and their attorney thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephonic interview between the Examiner and Megan E. Williams that took place on April 8, 2004.

Claims 70-121 were be pending in the application. Claims 116-118 have been canceled without prejudice herein.

No additional search is required and no new issues have been raised by the amendments made herein; support for the amendments made can be found in the specification as filed and/or in the claims as previously pending. Furthermore, in view of the cancellation of claims 116-118, the number of issues for appeal have been reduced. Therefore, the claim amendments and cancellations made herein are permissible under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as reducing the number of issues for appeal, and Applicants respectfully request that the present Amendment be entered.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants' amendment of claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to the Examiner's position with respect to the claims as previously pending. Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute the same or similar claims in a subsequent patent application.

**Allowed Claims:**

Claims 70-79, 81-90, 92-102 and 104-114 have previously been indicated as Allowed. It is Applicants' understanding that Claims 80, 91, 103, 115 and 119-121 are also allowable, given the Amendments and Arguments filed on July 22, 2003.

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Rejection of claims 116-118 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 116-118 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by De Boer et al. 5,747,034. The Examiner states that De Boer et al. "teach methods of inhibiting immune responses both in vitro and in vivo with combinations of B7-specific inhibitors, including the use of both B7-1 specific and B7-2 specific antibodies. Applicants reiterate the substance of their remarks made in the previous Amendment and Response. Although the reference fails to teach or suggest the use of anti-B7-2 antibodies in combination with immunosuppressive agents, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application, claims 116-118 have been canceled without prejudice herein.

SUMMARY

It is believed that the cancellation of Claims 116-118 obviates the outstanding issues and that the application is now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 9, 2004